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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: So how is ethanol moved?

SENATOR BAKER: By truck.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It costs more to move something by truck than by pipeline, is that true?

SENATOR BAKER: That is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's all that I want to ask you because if I had stated that ethanol, to use Senator Tyson's word is not fungible, meaning it cannot be transported by pipeline, you may not have accepted it. I have looked at this situation. I don't like giveaways. I don't like it when we give it to the railroad. I don't like it when we give it to Omaha. I don't like it when we give it to these speculators. We are not talking about helping the rural economy. We're talking about the locations of these speculators' speculative ventures. And I explained earlier why the federal subsidy stays in place. Senator Wickersham called your attention to the states where these plants are located. There's not enough political power there in terms of votes to justify it. But that's where the big companies that are doing the producing are located. Senator Wickersham, they contribute heavily to the campaigns of both political parties when it comes to the House and the Senate. They...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...buy the votes necessary to keep the 54 cents per gallon subsidy in place. You all are politicians, but you don't apply it where it really counts. If you cannot see any reason why something is happening, attribute it to politics. But at some point when the construction industry gets tired of having money stolen from the federal road program to subsidize ethanol, then you're going to have a clash of titans. And the federal subsidy for ethanol will at some point go away. And these sucker states like Nebraska, you all on this floor who cannot see what is happening will be left holding a bag and trying to explain things to your constituents. You're not helping the rural economy. You are helping speculators in a